

has been a staple holding the community's transportation needs together, and his services will be greatly missed.

Bob Ahrens selfless, hardworking Iowa mentality has set a lasting standard for the people of the Ogden community. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Ahrens for his service. I consider it an honor to represent Bob in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER
JOSHUA T. HARRIS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of former Petty Officer First Class Joshua T. Harris, who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan last week. Joshua was a native of Lexington, North Carolina, and was deployed to Afghanistan from an assignment at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group in Dam Neck, Virginia.

Joshua graduated from Lexington Senior High School where he distinguished himself as an outstanding linebacker earning both all-county and all-conference honors. He enrolled in Davison College in Davison, North Carolina, where he studied studio art before pursuing graduate studies in architecture at the University of North Carolina.

After enlisting in the Navy on August 23, 2000, Joshua attended Navy SEAL training in California.

Joshua Harris is survived by his mother Evelyn, his father Sam, his twin sister Mary-Maria Kirstin and his older brother, Sam Ranchor. He will always be remembered by his family and friends as a competitive athlete with a passion for art and design.

I would like to share with my colleges a poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell in memory of Petty Officer First Class Joshua Harris, recognizing his heroism and sacrifice to America. The poem titled "Thou Art" reads as follows:

THOU ART

A thing of Beauty . . .
A sheer work of art . . .
Can only come but from deep inside one's heart . . .
From only deep down inside one's soul . . .
All in the brush strokes of a lifetime so . . .
All on the canvass of a life behold . . .
To all hearts and minds, and souls . . .
A thing of faith and courage, so!
A thing of beauty . . .
A work of art . . .
To warm all hearts as we grow old . . .
As was your fine life Josh, so . . .
All in courage's quote . . .
All in the seeds of freedom you so sowed . . .
As left behind, to all hearts which spoke . . .
All upon your fine canvass of life as lies such hope . . .
Which but means the very most . . .
That so touches all of our hearts and souls . . .
Is but your fine portrait of life, that which you so wrote!
Painted, all there by your oh so magnificent heart of gold . . .
All in this your Honor's Code . . .
Is but left a fine reflection of your very soul!

Bringing Light!
Bringing Hope!
As in the darkest days of war you fought . . .
Such a thing of beauty Joshua, as you Thou Art!
Are but the colors of your heart . . .
All in this your life's design!
Reminds us all, how against all odds your courage climbed . . .
As against the darkest of all evil's you so shined . . .
All in your Seal of Honor burning bright . . .
To win that day, that night!
Shining, all in your most sacrificial light . . .
Burning bold, burning bright . . . blessing all of us here this night!
For Joshua, how so you lived and died . . .
Brings such tears, even to The Angels eyes!
As so surely, it was but Heaven Joshua you'd find!
As we gaze upon this Masterpiece, all in the life you so left behind!
Mount Up Seal . . . Your new battle has begun . . .
It's your new war to be won!
All as an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my son!
Now with wings of courage full . . .
A thing of beauty . . .
A work of art . . .
Joshua, my most magnificent of all sons . . .
You are Thou Art!
Amen. . .

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
THE PATIENT ADVOCATE ACT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of our citizens. With 46 million uninsured, including 9 million children, and many more underinsured, we must focus on strengthening our existing system as we continue to work to assure that quality health care is available to all. The Patient Advocate Act will assist patients, particularly those with a chronic illness, in successfully meeting the challenges brought on by their illness.

Patients battling a life-threatening illness are generally ill-equipped to negotiate with insurance companies, hospitals and other medical providers. Advocates will be available to assist with job retention and other debt crisis matters, while the patients are dealing with the reality of their illness at the same time. The limited network of existing patient advocate programs have proven their value and cost effectiveness. It is in the best interest of the patient to have someone available to advocate on their behalf while suffering from chronic illness.

Madam Speaker, the Patient Advocate Act would establish a demonstration grant program for State, local, tribal and non-profit entities to develop and operate patient advocate programs. The programs will assist patients in resolving health insurance, job retention, debt crisis and other problems related to the patients' diagnosis and illness. Specific services include negotiating pre-authorization claims, expediting the appeals process on contested claims, resolving billing errors and other bill issues, resolving debt crises, brokering resources to supplement limits to insurance, gaining access to services for the uninsured,

and addressing other problems related to the patient's illness, at no cost to the patient. The grants will be made available to existing and new patient advocacy programs.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that patients facing serious illness are able to effectively address the major issues that confront them during their illness, it is vitally important that they have access to professional case management services. The Patient Advocate Act will provide communities with the ability to establish patient advocate programs to assist patients as they negotiate the challenges of serious illness. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOWELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Jerry Howell, organist at the Maxwell Church of the Brethren and Loring United Methodist Church of Maxwell, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

For the past 50 years, Jerry has contributed his time and talents to his church community. He began piano lessons at the age of 11. In 1958, the organist at Santiago Methodist Church in rural Mitchellville retired, and at the age of 14, Jerry was called up to the organ bench. In 1989, Jerry and his wife Opal transferred their church membership to Loring United Methodist Church in rural Maxwell, Iowa. The organist at Loring retired, and Jerry was back on the organ bench. For the past 10 years, he was the organist for both Loring and Maxwell Church of the Brethren.

It is estimated that in the past 50 years, Jerry has played for 2,700 Sunday morning services, 120 funerals and 25 weddings. Unfortunately, Jerry's career has been cut short with his diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration that has caused blurry vision that makes reading and playing the music difficult. Although he no longer plays the organ at church, the memories of Jerry's musical contributions live on, and he continues to be an active member of his community.

Beyond retiring from his service at church, Jerry also retired from his job as an accounting technician at the Iowa Department of Transportation a year and a half ago, and he has taken the opportunity to travel around the country while his vision remains strong enough. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry Howell in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he continues to serve his community and travel around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
RON LEWIS ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RON LEWIS for his service to the people